

### *Activity Days*

We have held 12 Activity Days this year with 122 children and young people attending in total and approx 35 at each session. This is similar to 2009/10.

After spending last year going around the world for our morning activity day themes for 3-9 year olds, from September 2010 we have been working through the A-Z of Bible characters. We have looked at Adam, Abraham, Bartimaeus, Christ and Christmas, David, Elijah, Good Friday, Fish, Feet, Food, Heroes and will continue through the alphabet until we decide to have a change.

The older group have contributed a major insert in Church News including an interview with the then new Church Secretary, been climbing at Chessington Community College, been to the cinema, cooked, watched films and many other activities.

### *Brigades*

Numbers have been highly variable particularly in the younger age range where we have lost a lot of children but have gained a number in the older sections. Over the course of the year 53 children and young people have attended with a core of approx 25.

Last summer for the first time we held a summer programme with activities on Wednesday afternoons for Juniors and Fridays for Seniors. These were mostly outdoors and included trips to Bushy Park and kite flying, cycling, treasure hunts, a visit to Vauxhall City Farm in the rain, a visit to the seaside, to the Science Museum and to the Imperial War Museum.

During the year, we have met and thought about how different animals are cared for, worked on the Christmas gift service, made dinner for the night shelter, and learnt about Joseph and Moses. We have also been cycling and night hiking, and are looking forward to a trip to Chessington World of Adventures.

We have welcomed a new volunteer Daniel, from Tolworth and celebrated both his and Megan's 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays. We are about to say 'good bye' to Jason who leaves us to join the Army. Both Jacob and Jason completed their BB officers training this year.

In 2011 we began exploring the option of Pilots and whether that was a better 'fit' for Kingston URC than Brigades and after discussion with the children, parents and two church meetings it was decided to take the step of moving from Brigades to Pilots from September 2011.

### *Cook and Eat*

We have held two courses this year in partnership with the NHS and RBK. The first in the autumn was for a slightly younger group of 16 year olds and the second was a group of 17-19 year olds. Both groups enjoyed the course, learnt new skills and for a few this was a rare opportunity for them to complete and achieve something. We even celebrated a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday at the course, with a cake which the young people baked. RBK are intending to run their Drop In, in our building from June and to do cooking in some of their sessions.

### *Greenbelt*

Last summer 6 intrepid girls plus Jacob, Jayne and Emily joined the Synod group at

Greenbelt for the usual mix of ridiculous hats, music, art, drama, swimming and worship with 3D glasses. In order to raise some funds they washed cars and taught people to use computers. This summer we are once again joining forces with the Synod group and the hats are already being aired.

### *Parents and Toddlers*

In Parents and Toddlers the numbers have been up again this year to the extent that we had to close the Monday list to new people. Tuesday and Wednesday have as a consequence also been very busy. During the year we have bought some new toys including a highly popular green and blue scooter and some prams. Singing remains popular and we have held services at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the Summer Term. We have a number of children leaving us and hope to be able to welcome some new families in September.

### *Stay and Play*

Stay and Play meets on the third Saturday of the month. Numbers have remained small, but the group is valued by those who attend. We made a Christmas cake in December, decorated tiles and have enjoyed the Scalextric and a light-up ball. Some of the mums have learnt a new skill too as Christina and Ray taught a few to knit.

### *The important stuff (Bible Study)*

Three of the original ALF group wanted to continue to meet so in the Autumn and Spring terms we held a Bible Study called The Important Stuff. The Scripture Union materials provided us with animations to watch, computer and other games to play, craft and prayer ideas as well as actually

reading the Bible! Pat, Sue, Sally and Emily have been involved and it has been an interesting and enjoyable experience for all.

### *YPSG (Young People's Sunday Group)*

We're still here! Every Sunday there are activities during the 10:00 service in room 14 for children of any age who are happy to leave their parents (although parents are welcome to come and help their children settle). This usually involves a Bible or related story, some craft, games and a prayer. For the 11.30 service we provide activities for children in the church and other activities as requested by the worship leader. For the 11:00 service on the second Sunday of the month we provide activities in the worship space. There are always quiet toys, colouring and books at the front of the worship space behind the pulpit for anyone who would rather stay with their parents.

## **Support Activities**

### *Child Friendly Church Award*

This year we have again completed an internal review of our Child Friendly Church Award in readiness for the external re-accreditation in 2012. Children and young people have been involved in the discussions about Pilots, have presented their thoughts to church meeting, attended the church day and Lara has been involved in the Synod Youth Executive.

### *Safeguarding*

We continue to keep the Safeguarding policy and associated risk assessments up

to date. The big change this year has been thinking through taking groups out cycling. In the next year we will have to look into a Facebook policy as the young people reach 13 and want to use this technology.

### *Turning the Tide Funding*

After 10 years our funding from the Synod Turning the Tide fund ceases in December 2011. This means that we have lost £10,000 per year funding for our youth work. We have been very grateful to the Synod for this funding. Going forward we will no longer need to provide support for Synod youth and children's work activities.

### **In the future...**

#### *Supported Child Contact Centre*

This year we have been exploring the need for a Child Contact Centre in Kingston. Having spoken to solicitors in the area, to Welcare and CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) we have begun to recruit volunteers, we are affiliating to the National Association of Child Contact Centres and are working towards opening on Sundays from October.

#### *Pilots*

Pilots is a non-uniformed Christian organisation, sponsored by the URC and Congregational Federation. It has four age groups Deckhands 5-6 year olds, Adventurers 7-10 year olds, Voyagers 11-14 year olds and Navigators 15-18 year olds - all of whom can work for badges. We are starting this on a Friday from September.

#### *Volunteers*

Volunteers are what make all of this happen. We would have no youth and children's work without them. We always need more. At present our need is for people to help with Parents and Toddlers, Activity Days, Pilots and the Child Contact Centre, so whatever your availability there is a youth work opportunity for you! A big thank you to all our volunteers. You are stars!

#### *And finally...*

After 10 years of loyal service Emily Young has decided to accept a role with the Enfield Methodist Circuit as their Circuit Youth Worker.

We are of course delighted that Emily has found a new opportunity, but our pleasure is tinged with sadness as we will be losing someone who has been very much part of our community and who has contributed a great deal.

Emily leaves us on 31<sup>st</sup> August after taking our group to Greenbelt as planned. We have been able to build up a strong team who will lead our activity until Emily's successor is appointed.

We are saying goodbye to Emily on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at the 10:00 and 11.30 services and finishing with a bring and share lunch at 12.40. You are very welcome to join us for any part or all of the morning.